

are suspended for the remainder of the calendar year. This is due to unavailability of meeting rooms and the requirement of social distancing in the library.

A few tables and chairs have been reintroduced in the public area for those who wish to enjoy a newspaper or complete a task on a laptop. We do, however, request that your stay be relatively brief. All tables and chairs are sanitized after use, as well as computers and other devices.

Curbside service remains available

to pick up your items on hold. Please call 488-2370 ahead of time so that your items will be ready for you. Or, simply drop by and ring the doorbell on the table outside and we will come to you.

Please see our website (ppld.org) for a wide variety of virtual programs including yoga, story times, and book groups. There is a new story time and a new toddler time each week. Earlier sessions are also available for viewing.

Returned materials continue to be quarantined for four days before being

processed. Please place any returns in the outdoor book drop on the north side of the building before entering.

In keeping with state and county Health Department mandates, all patrons over the age of 2 are required to wear masks in the library.

During the month of October, Maker Spaces at the East, Sand Creek, and Library 21c locations will reopen to public use. Please see our website for details.

The Palmer Lake Library remains closed at this time.

The entrance ramp has been demolished until it can be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The district Bookmobile visits the site on Mondays from 9 to 11 and Wednesdays from 2:15 to 4. The book drop remains available.

We hope to see you soon at the library.

Harriet Halbig can be contacted at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Using bright, warm, protective tunnels for plants

By Janet Sellers

Snow? No! There are ways to extend our growing season in our area. I interviewed one of our local farmers to find out what he does to get multi-season growth.

OneLuv Organics uses a system of steel tubes for hoops and a very specific frost cloth. The frost cloth goes over the hoops and extends out from the last hoop on each side with a very specific pattern. Adding frost cloth on the ground over the seedlings keeps ground temperatures at least five degrees higher than the air temperature—even in sub-freezing weather—letting in a high degree of sunshine yet keeping out hail, snow, wind, and other environmental factors that could harm the plants.

I got some of their hoops and frost cloth for my garden. I didn't have time to get the hoop system up at my house before we had snow in early September. But at Monument Community Garden I just threw the frost cloth over my 30 tomato plants and put trash bags over the kale and nasturtiums and a bucket over a small zucchini plant to see if it would help ride out the storm. A few days later, I went to check on my survival experiment and everything that was covered survived with limited damage—the tomatoes looked as if nothing had happened at all! All the other plants, which I was leaving to



ripen, were frost burned from the snow, so I've been harvesting the seeds.

Plants usually will survive a mild snow and even frost because the snow acts like a blanket. The problem arises if we have rain or sleet first, freezing the water on them. Curiously, prudent watering (but not overwatering) of plants early in the day at 40 degrees or so, can pro-

Left: At OneLuv Organics, owner Dean Bortell shows how they use steel hoops and attach the frost cloth. Plastic and aluminum hoops could collapse, but steel hoops have the sturdiness the farm needs for protection against most wind and snow loads. Note that the metal stake on the left and the tied-down frost cloth create the end slopes on the tunnels, with a center paracord on long tunnels clipped to the cloth. Wind and snow flow past these shapes instead of piling on top and collapsing the unit. With the steel hoops, gardeners can just push it into the soil; the minimum distance between this size of hoop should be 4 feet. Photo by Janet Sellers. Milo Scott shows a preview of his woodturning bowls. Photos by Janet Sellers.

tect them. Water in the plant cells insulates and protects from damage; watering nearby soil helps retain the sun's heat, because humid air retains heat better than dry air.

Janet Sellers is an ethnoecologist and avid lazy gardener letting Mother Nature do most of the work. Contact Janet at janetsellers@ocn.me

Art Matters

Augmented reality art: our most contemporary art



Left: Viewers can enjoy art as is or access the cloud for an augmented reality experience that

includes movement, sound, and transforming imagery using apps such as Reblink, Artvive, and more. Photo from ClipArtKey.com. Artwork by Janet Sellers.

By Janet Sellers

Artists use materials from the low tech of pencil and paper to the high tech of electronic devices that add visual, sound, and interactive motion to their art. Augmented reality (AR) art is redefining our cultural experiences. As AR apps become more available, we will use them for more purposes, likely increasing dynamic sharing for education, presentations, and design.

We need our real world, and we need art as cultural heritage adding balance to our lives. In this pandemic year, art venues have lost tourism support and more. Undaunted, museums are bringing that to us via the cloud. Artists are using this era to make group and community sharing in heartwarming and fulfilling ways.

Conference call life for many is the norm, so art venues are availing AR beyond mere audio tours. Artists, museums, and galleries are bringing art back into our lives on platforms that are easy to use for all tech levels, and as simple as ordering the devices to do our bidding just by saying, "Okay, Google!"

Foundation skills, innovation, and originality are essential components to art and imagination. With augmented reality, (unlike virtual reality which requires a viewer with special equipment to a complete immersion of that experience) the user experiences original art and augmentation side by side with added technology—usually electronics—to experience the art with superimposed images, music or fonts and texts to alter the aesthetic experience, usually on a handy device like a

cell phone. Artists add digitized visuals, movement, and sound to their art via electronic platforms (TV, computers, smartphones), for the augmented part of the experience.

A century ago, Picasso upended his art world and the contemporary art of his time, reflecting a cultural freedom expressing basic humanity as opposed to the contrived "surface perfect" art that had dominated Western aesthetic thinking for hundreds of years. He brought back more primitive forms of art that contain and reveal fundamental shapes with visceral impact versus surface appearance, thus investigating and exposing human

cultural foundations instead of covering them up in response to his rapidly changing modern world.

That feat was as close to our current AR as one could be in his day. We are using but not being used by our own newest platforms, reaching out to each other with what we have. We'll be back to reality soon, and in the meantime, let's enjoy our platforms and share how much art matters.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker on the topics of art and creativity, making and sharing art on many creative platforms. Contact Janet at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community



Art weekends in local scenic spots

Left: Art students Emily, left, and Ella enjoy the shade of giant sunflowers as they paint and sketch in the Monument Community Garden for the annual Labor Day weekend "Paint Out," an annual—and national—outdoor painting celebration, often a competition among professionals with an art sale following the day. Emily and Ella attended the weekend Artful Outdoors community event, offered as a technique demonstration with a class each week. Photo by Janet Sellers.